Vol. V. Numb. 49.

THE OBSERVATOR.

of the Descent *Squadron's being in* Torbay. *Of the Lies and Forgeries of the Enemies of the Government. A Story from* Exeter. *Of the Affairs of* Hungary. *Of Prince* Rogotsky's *Letter to the* States-General. *The* Post-Man *Reprehended. The* Review *further Examin'd.*

From **Saturday** August the 21st, to **Wednesday** September the 4th, 1706.

Obs. HOneſt *Country-man*, no News yet? Where is the *Deſcent* Squadron?

Country-m. Maſter, they are ſtill *in Torbay*, and the *High-Flyers* are very Uppiſh upon it, and Recriminate, ſay they, *If ſome Body had Commanded the Fleet in this Expedition, we ſhould have had Reflections enough to have 'em kept ſo long in* Torbay.

Obs. They are very pretty Gentlemen to turn even the Actions of *Providence* againſt the *Government* and the *Miniſtry*: Can the greateſt Admiral in the World Sail againſt the Wind? We have had one in our time that pretended to Fight without Powder and Shot; but he did not pretend to come a Broad-ſide with 'em againſt the Winds. I have read in *Olaus Magnus*, Arch-Biſhop of *Upſal*, of one *Ericus*, a King of *Norway*, Sir-named *Windy-Cap*, becauſe, which way ſoever he turn'd his Cap, that way the Wind would blow; I don't think Sir *Cloudſley Shovel* has got ſuch a Cap to his Head; and if any of the *High-Flyers* have got ſuch a Cap, they won't turn it one Point of the Compaſs to let the Fleet looſe: The Wind muſt ſtill contine due W. or W. and by S. and blowing Weather too.

This is no ſuch wonder as to be improv'd againſt any Body; things that proceed from Natural Cauſes can't be help'd or hinder'd by Humane Application. The Winds in theſe Nothern Latitudes continue Weſterly at leaſt two thirds of the Year, and at this Seaſon, generally ſpeaking, do hang moſt in that Corner. We don't expect Impoſſibilities from the Gentlemen employ'd in the Management of our Publick Affairs. We have of late found Proofs of their *Courage* and *Conduct*, and we can relye on the *Fidelity* of thoſe that Command the Fleet, which may keep us eaſie, and Encourage us to wait Gods good time.

But I can't help obſerving how ſome Men among us take every thing by the wrong handle to the Diſadvantage of the *Government*, and when they fail of any viſible Misfortune, they can Invent and Forge Lies to embarraſs the Publick Tranquility: For this End was the late Forgery of our Army's being beaten in *Flanders*, the Duke of *Marlborough* being Killed or Wounded, *&c.* This Story reach'd into the Country where I then was, and put the Honeſt People into a great Conſternation, tho' I told 'em it was a *High-Flying* Invention and Falſehood, and upon coming to Town, reading the *Paris* Gazette, I found the ſame Story on that Libel, which made me conclude theſe Forgeries are concerted betwixt our Home and Foreign Enemies, and ſpread by *both* in prejudice of the *Government*.

Country-m. Maſter, I hear ſome of the Flock that Publiſh'd that Story are committed to *Newgate*, and there let 'em lye till *Roger*, your *Country-man*, ſhall come to ſet 'em at *Liberty*.

Obſ. Roger, 'tis in vain for us two to trouble our Heads about the Publick all we do is to our Diſſervice, to our Coſt and Charges, and in the End will be your Ruin as well as mine. You know, *Roger*, you and I were both of us in the Intereſt of King *William*; you lent me your Horſe, Money and Arms to joyn him in the Recovery of our *Rights*; 'tis true, he miſcarry'd in the Choice of his *Miniſtry*, ſo that the *Revolution* was not one Penny Recompence or Advantage to the Perſons that accompliſh'd it, who were ſent a Starving, and the Enemies of our Country, the Dogs, eat the Childrens Bread; ſuch were the Times; ſuch the Humours of Men, and the Common Fate that attends Men of *Probity*, *Honour* and *Honeſty*.

But, *Country-man*, how Ungrateful ſoever, what Hardſhips ſoever were put upon us in the late Reign, who had loſt *all* in bringing the *Revolution* to paſs; yet, as we did always pity the Misfortune of that *Good King*, Coop'd in by *Evil Men*, ſo we cannot help Reflecting on whatſoever may be Injurous to his Memory; and therefore I'll tell you a Story I have received from *Exeter*.

It is a good Thing, and convenient to trace the Footſteps of *Divine Providence*, to Obſerve the *Judgments* and *Mercies* of the *Almighty* inflicted and beſtow'd on *Mankind*. I have lately obſerv'd it on thoſe who drank a Health to *Sorrel*, the Horſe that threw King *William*, and broke his Collar-Bone, in two Inſtances of Mr. *Benjamin Dod* and his Companion, who us'd to drink that Health, and both of 'em dy'd in few days one of another by falls from their Horſes.

You may remember, *Roger*, I formerly gave you a Relation of *Sorrels* being at *Exeter*, and how the *Sword-Bearer* of the City kiſs'd the Beaſt, and Honeſt *Tobias*, the *Songſter* at the *Cathedral*, drank his Health; you may remember the Story better than my ſelf, but the preſent Story is this, The *Sword-Bearer* is in Priſon for Debt, has been there about nine Months, and none of the Beaſts of *Sorrel's Party* has had Charity enough as yet to relieve him.

Tobias, the Sweet-Singer of *Exeter*, one of the *High-Church-Commedians*, taking a *Turn*, not long ſince, into the Country, on Horſe-Back, his Horſe threw him, broke his Collar-Bone and three of his Ribs; his *Doctors* and *Surgeons* are not only afraid that it will ſpoil his Singing, but that it will coſt him his Life; and this is the third Inſtance that I have given of the Judgment of God befallen thoſe Execrable Wretches that us'd to drink a Health to that Horſe which threw King *William*.

Country-m. Maſter, if you pleaſe to give me your Opinion of the Affairs of *Hungary*

Obſ. Hold, *Country-man*, you muſt anſwer me

a previous Question; Is the Emperors Envoy gone Home yet?

Country-m. Maſter, that's well minded; the time is not yet come for ſpeaking the Truth, but when 'tis come, and you ſhall ſpeak it out boldly, you'll ſhame a power of *Devils*. We dare not ſpeak in Defence of the *Hungarians*, if we do, Mr. *Review* will again tell us, *That we ſpeak againſt Crown'd Heads, and that the* Hungarians *are Treacherous and Perfidious.*

Obſ. The *Review* knows 'tis as ſafe Writing as Rowing with the Stream. But, *Country-man*, I could have told you before the Treaty was ſcarce begun with the *Hungarians*, that it would come to nothing; and I could tell you ſo, becauſe the *Jeſuits* at *Vienna* and in *Hungary* ſaid ſo at that time, not that I would have you think that the *Jeſuits* can Govern or Influence any Body; that would be a Paw-word, but that they are a ſort of *Stale-Negromancers*, and can fore ell the Effect of Treaties before they are begun, is evident enough.

I ſhall ſay nothing to this Head; the Conſiderations of *Safety* command my *Silence:* But thoſe Gentlemen that are willing to be ſatisfy'd in the Affairs of *Hungary*, I recommend to them the Le ter written by Prince *Rogotsky* to the *States* of *Holland*, and publiſh'd on the *Dayly-Courant*, *Aug.* 29. Numb. 1365. there they may be ſatisfy'd of the whole Affair at the Expence of a Penny.

Country-m. Maſter, Here's a good Health, Proſperity, and Happineſs to the *Hungarians:* I Love People that ſtand Up in Defence of *Liberty* and *Property*. We are Fighting for the *Emperours Right*, and the *Hungarians* are Fighting for their own *Rights:* God Bleſs Them and Us. ——— But now, Maſter, I have an Accuſation againſt you.

Obſ. Roger, that's the *Devils* Buſineſs and none of yours.

Country-m. 'Tis no Railing one, nor any one at all on my part, but on the part of the *Poſt-Man*, *Aug.* 29. Numb. 5666. You told us of the Sign of *the Emblem*, ſet Up at an Inn at *Stoke*, near *Nayland*, in *Suffolk:* Now, Mr. *Poſt-Man* ſays 'tis a *Lye*, and has Publiſh'd an Advertiſement againſt the Sculpture of that *Emblem*, that it was Proſecuted by the *Grand-Jury*, and in Evidence has affixed two of the *Grand-Jury-Mens* Names.

Obſ. The *Poſt-Man* ought to have more reſpect to the Reputatton of *Authors*, than to Convict 'em of *Falſehood* upon the Evidence of a couple of *Suffolk-Drovers*, pretending themſelves to be *Grand-Jury-Men:* But if I am not much miſtaken, he alſo gives the *Judges* the Lie too, who order'd, in their Circuit, *that* Sign to be taken down. And ſince he pretends to Vindicate the Honour of the County of *Suffolk*, let him, in his next, acquaint us how many *Tackers* there are in that County, and how many of their *Inferiour Clergy*, at the late Elections, Voted for the Queens Friends, as alſo how much the People ought to depend upon his News for the future.

Country-m. In the next place Mr. *Review* is upon your Back: He ſays That he miſtook concerning his *Reviews* being Read in Court, but that it was Read by the *Council*, in debating the Point, and was eſteem'd *GOOD LAW*.

Obſ. Mr. *Review* and my ſelf ſhall never finiſh this Point, till he leaves off Shuffling: 'Tis *Argument* and not *Words* can Convince me. When I Talk of *Chalk* he'll Talk of *Cheeſe*. I would keep him to the Point if I could. I deſired him to tell me the Names of his *Long-Robe-Men*, as now I deſire him to tell me the Names of this *Council* that eſteem'd what he ſaid on that Head to be *GOOD LAW*.

Country-m. He Names Mr. Baron *Price* in this Caſe. I don't know that Gentleman.

Obſ. Nor do I know him: But I will Oppoſe Mr. *Baron Price*, or Mr. *Baron* any Body on that Head.

The *Review* has aſſerted, *That it is Lawful to keep the Peace at Elections with Troops of Horſe:* This is the Point. And this he ſays has been eſteem'd *GOOD LAW*. Now, I ſay, if this be *GOOD LAW*, we have no ſuch thing as *LAW* in *England:* We have no *Right* to our *Liberties*; and our *Lives* are as precarious as our *Birth-Rights:* In ſhort it is Unhinging our *Conſtution*, Vacating all the Proviſions our Anceſtors have made for our *Freedoms*, nd bringing us under the hardeſt Terms of *Vaſſalage* that can be.

Now I would Argue the Point fairly with Mr. *Review*, without either *Paſſion* or *Malice*, as a Point of the greateſt Conſequence that ever he *Aſſerted* or I *Oppoſed*, only I would not have him put me off with *WORDS* inſtead of *LAW:* For ſays he *'tis GOOD LAW*, let him quote thoſe *Laws*, and tell me in which of our *Law-Books* they are to be found. I really thought before this time this great Mountain of *Law* would have produc'd ſome *Creep-Mouſe* or other to Nibble in Vindication of ſo ſtrange an Aſſertion. But, alas, I can meet with nothing but *Words*; and I leave it to the Judgement of Men of *Thought* whether this be fair Arguing.

For my part, *Roger*, let him be a *High* or *Low-Church man*, a *Proteſtant* or a *Papiſt*, a *Whig* or a *Tory*, of what *Party*, and under what Denomination ſoever, that will Preach up a *French Government* in *England*, I ſhall think it my Duty to Oppoſe him; and I do once more entreat Mr. *Review* to produce ſome of his *GOOD LAW*, to juſtifie what he has aſſerted concerning keeping the Peace at *Elections* with Troops of Horſe; that is as much as to ſay that he will be Graciouſly pleas'd to prove, That *Engliſhmen* are *Slaves* by *Laws* of their own making.

Country-m. Well, Maſter, I ſmell a confounded Rat. You have done with Mr. *Review*, I ſuppoſe, till he has produc'd his *GOOD LAW*, and if you are ſilent till then, I am afraid you'll forget to ſpeak; but I han't done with Mr. *Rehearſal*, for the next time we meet he ſhall find I'll giv'n tother Thwack.

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